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Governor's Council on Workforce Investment Solicits Requests for Workforce Innovation Project Funds

\$400,550 available for projects which advance workforce and economic development

Madison – Governor Jim Doyle announced today that the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) is soliciting proposals for workforce innovation projects that will further enhance Wisconsin's economy. CWI is seeking proposals that offer creative solutions and original ideas to enhance workforce development throughout the state.

To forward Governor Doyle's economic development strategy to create good paying jobs and a high-end economy, CWI has earmarked a total of \$400,550 to fund proposals which demonstrate the ability to fuel job growth. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to workforce development boards; K-16 educational institutions; local governments; economic development entities; labor organizations; business associations; and, private non-profit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations.

"The council's charge is to ensure that we effectively target our workforce dollars to meet the needs of Wisconsin's workers and employers," Governor Doyle said. "This initiative will reward proposals that offer innovative ideas to further catalyze the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities throughout Wisconsin."

The Governor-appointed Council on Workforce Investment plays an advisory role to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Workforce Development. The council, chaired by Paul Linzmeyer of Bay Towel in Green Bay, includes business representatives, state agency department heads, educational representatives from the K-12 public school system, the technical college system, and the University of Wisconsin, individuals with experience in workforce development issues, and representatives of organized labor. The council's mission and goals focus on investments that will benefit the state, its businesses, and its residents, including, increasing education, skills and wage; focusing on the future economy; making smart and strategic regional decisions; and, fostering entrepreneurship. The Council's actions include policy development, establishing special grant projects, fostering collaborative state and local models, and identifying and disseminating best practices.

Successful proposals must show evidence of at least one of the following:

- Increased opportunities for innovative regional partnerships that support opportunities and advancement in key occupation sectors;
- Increased flexibility and efficiency of Wisconsin's workforce development system and the quality of services to employers, job seekers and employment and training partners;
- Increased and improved state and local interagency communications and strategic planning to ensure alignment and effective implementation to advance a high-wage, high-growth economy.

This solicitation requests brief project concept papers for review. Once selected through the review process, successful applicants will work with DWD to finalize project details, including budget information, which will lead to a final grant by DWD.

Proposals are due to DWD by the close of business on Friday, May 5, 2006. Additional information can be found at www.wi-cwi.org.

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